(i) Extension of platforms no. 2 and 3 for 48 metres.

(ii) Improvement of station building face lifting and provision of waiting hall.

(iii) Remodeling of station building.

Extension of Sambalpur-Raipur express to Bhubaneswar

1185.SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a proposal has been given by the East Coast Railway to extend Sambalpur-Raipur Express upto Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the proposal in spite of the fact that there is no direct train linking the Capital of Orissa and Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal involves changes in the existing schedules of the train. The change may be resisted by the existing users. However, 3 pairs of trains viz. 8473/8474 Jaipur-Puri Express (weekly), 8405/8406 Ahmedabad-Puri Express (weekly) and 2145/2146 Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus)-Bhubaneswar Express (weekly) are already linking the Capitals of the two States.

Gauge Conversion in Rajasthan

†1186. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of narrow gauge rail lines in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any efforts are being made for gauge conversion of the said lines;

(c) if so, the target fixed to complete the gauge conversion works; and

(d) the progress made in this regard as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY .OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The narrow gauge rail lines in Rajasthan are as under: -

(i)Sirmuttra-Mohari-Dhaulpur.

(ii) Mohari-Tantpur.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.